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54 Elm Street Fairfield, CT 06824 October 30, 2002 RECEIVED & INSPECTED |
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Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary 445 12th Street SW, Room **TW-B204** Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ownership Rules, Docket 02-277

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to object to the elimination or weakening of limits on media consolidation by changing rules governing the number of media outlets that can be owned or controlled by one person or entity.

These rules should be SUPPORTED, even STRENGTHENED, by the F.C.C., which should be representing the PUBLIC interest, NOT the interests of media owners. Those owners are, too often, large media conglomerates. If not conglomerates, they may owners of several newspapers, radio or television stations in one city or metro area, and thus be able to control content, or more likely LACK of content, in that area.

It is vital for the health of our aiminishing democracy to maintain and improve the amount ana variety of information the public is able to read, see and hear. We must have competition and diversity for a healthy democracy, and that needs as much multiple ownership and management as possible. Alternate voices, opinions and programming must NOT be shut out by monopolistic, syndicated ownership of media markets.

Any rule or regulation changes which would encourage or even allow media to diminish public information must be resisted. Profitability should not be your consideration, even though it may be at the top of owners' agendas.

The present administration's devotion to secrecy is frightening. Please do NUT encourage **it** by making *it* difficult or impossible for non-syndicated, non-conforming viewpoints to gain public access.

Sincerely yours,

Pamela W. Ritter

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Mrs. Pamela Ritter 54 Elm St Fairfield, CT 06430

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